

APRIL 3, 1993

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Ozal meets Talabani

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas in a letter to her Iraqi counterpart has appealed to that three jailed Swedes be released, a foreign ministry spokesman said Saturday. "It is an appeal from the foreign minister to find a solution as soon as possible to have them released," Claes Jernaeus said. It was the first time the Swedish foreign minister has appealed directly to Baghdad on behalf of the jailed Swedes.

Clinton vows help for Russia; Yeltsin pledges to pursue reform

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — President Bill Clinton, arriving Saturday for his first summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, vowed to "mobilise the world" to support Russian reform. Mr. Yeltsin said Western aid would help him "bring the reform process to completion."

Mr. Clinton arrived after Mr. Yeltsin. Two hours apart, they each stood at attention on the red-carpeted tarmac alone in the rain without umbrella as a military band played national anthems.

Fateh officer hurt in attack

SIDON (AP) — Assailants tossed a grenade on the commander of the Fateh guerrilla faction in the refugee camp in Mieh Mieh Saturday. Police said the commander, Fathi Zeidan, was critically wounded. In the blast, Fateh's intelligence chief in the camp, Ali Farhoud, accused Abu Nidal's breakaway Fateh Revolutionary Council faction of engineering the assassination attempt in an ongoing war between the two groups.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

King meets ICAO chief, Lebanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Saturday with Assad Quteit, head of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council, and reviewed with him Jordan's achievements in the field of civil aviation and its cooperation with the ICAO. The King praised Dr. Quteit's efforts and those of the ICAO in the course of helping to ensure the safety of air passengers and civilian aircraft. King Hussein met separately at the Royal Court Saturday with Lebanon's Labour Minister Abdallah Al Amin and reviewed labour issues in the Arab World. The King underlined the importance of pan-Arab meetings which he said, would promote the work of institutions concerned with collective Arab action. He stressed the importance of the Arab labour ministers conference which is due to open in Amman Monday. The Lebanese minister said his country highly valued King Hussein's continued support for Lebanon and his role in serving pan-Arab causes. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti was present at the meeting (see earlier story on page 3).

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kuwait corruption scandals grow

KUWAIT (AP) — A parliament deputy accused an unidentified Defence Ministry official Saturday of taking \$100 million in kickbacks, adding to the mounting corruption scandals that have rocked Kuwait since last year. In an interview with the independent Al Qabas daily, Mubarak Al Dwaibah said the official had taken unlawful commissions on arms deals with foreign companies. He did not name the suspect or give any other details. "Kuwaitis are sick of this series of scandals.... I'm sure the defence minister will be cooperative in following up on whoever thinks about embezzling public money," Mr. Dwaibah told Al Qabas.

Hrawi seeks Saudi help

JEDDAH (AP) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia, the second phase of a Gulf tour to drum up financial assistance for Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said King Fahd was on hand to receive the Lebanese guest at Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz International Airport. It said the Saudi monarch later escorted Mr. Hrawi to the guest quarters, but did not say when their official talks would take place. Before departure from Beirut, a statement from the president's office said Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul and Information Minister Michel Samaha were among a four-man delegation that accompanied Mr. Hrawi on his 24-hour visit. The Lebanese media said Mr. Hrawi planned to urge the monarch to reopen the Saudi embassy in Beirut, closed since it was ransacked and burned by zealots in August 1984.

Mahathir in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad arrived in Tehran Saturday saying his trip was designed to upgrade economic and political ties. Tebaran Radio reported. The broadcast said Mr. Mahathir and his ranking 180-member delegation were welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi. The visit is the first exchange at this level between the two countries since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Swedish minister appeals to Iraq

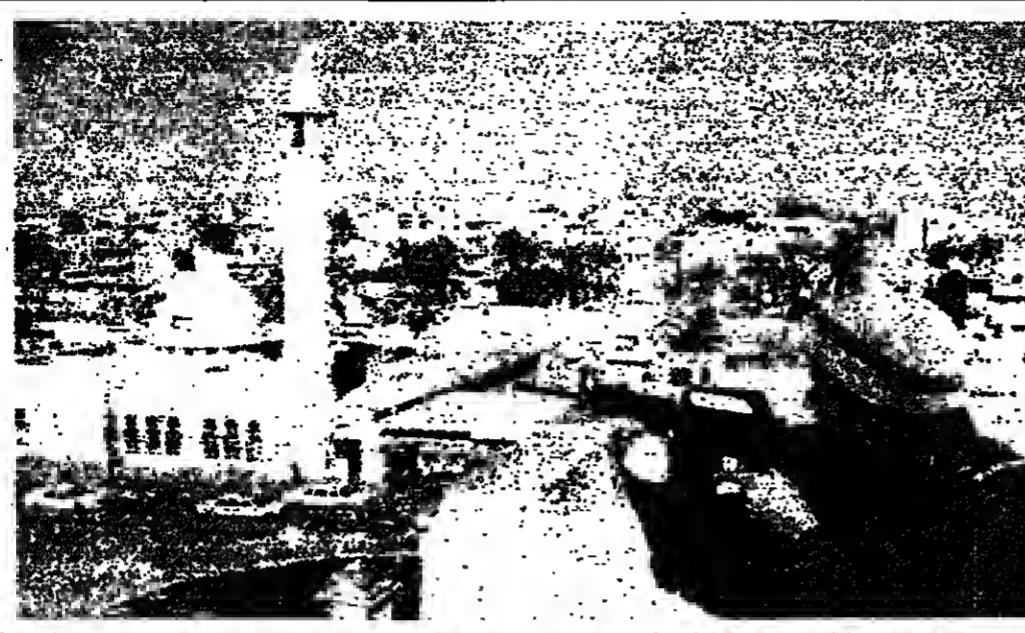
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Ozal meets Talabani

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani held talks Saturday with Turkish President Turgut Ozal on the Kurdish rebellion in Turkey. "I am very satisfied with our talks with the president. We have exchanged views on Iraqi Kurdistan," the PDK (Kurdish Labour Party) was also included," he said after meeting Mr. Ozal. "Violence cannot solve any problem anywhere. There should be a peaceful solution," he told reporters in Ankara. Last month PDK leader Abdullah Ocalan declared a unilateral ceasefire from March 20 to April 15 which led to a decrease in violence in Turkey's southeast. The offer was relayed to Turkey by Mr. Talabani.

Fateh officer hurt in attack

SIDON (AP) — Assailants tossed a grenade on the commander of the Fateh guerrilla faction in the refugee camp in Mieh Mieh Saturday. Police said the commander, Fathi Zeidan, was critically wounded. In the blast, Fateh's intelligence chief in the camp, Ali Farhoud, accused Abu Nidal's breakaway Fateh Revolutionary Council faction of engineering the assassination attempt in an ongoing war between the two groups.



Israeli snipers posted on roofs overlooking the centre of Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

as part of a backing up of Israeli forces in the occupied territories (AFP photo)

PLO: Israel responsible for escalating cycle of violence

Israeli policeman killed, soldiers wounded in 'mistaken' shootout at roadblock in West Bank

TUNIS (Agency) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Saturday Israel was to blame for the recent violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel this week in response to violence that has killed 76 Palestinians and 17 Israelis since he ordered the expulsions. A statement released after Palestinian leaders met in Tunis Friday accused Israel's government of "waging a global war against the Palestinian people under the pretext of imposing security."

The Israeli government is responsible for the escalation in violence and for putting the peace process at an impasse," said the statement published by the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Middle East peace negotiations involving Israel, its Arab neighbours and Palestinians have stalled since December when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

Israeli policeman killed

A policeman was killed and two soldiers seriously wounded when their car sped past two army roadblocks in the occupied

West Bank and troops fired at the vehicle, the army and radio reports said Saturday.

The incident Friday night underscores the tension in the occupied territories following a month of violence.

The checkpoint was one of dozens set up by troops to enforce a closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by Mr. Rabin earlier this week.

The army said Eitan Masika of the Israeli police was driving in the West Bank about 10:30 p.m. Friday with three Israeli soldiers in his car.

Israel Radio said the three soldiers, two men and a woman, had left their base without permission and were hitchhiking near the Jewish settlement of Maale

(Continued on page 5)

Soldiers work in farms, page 2



Christine Nielsen vacuums a totem pole at a museum in Vancouver, a site U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will tour during their Saturday-Sunday summit (AFP photo)

Clinton vows help for Russia; Yeltsin pledges to pursue reform

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — President Bill Clinton, arriving Saturday for his first summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, vowed to "mobilise the world" to support Russian reform. The president wants a programme that is deliverable. He wants one that can get into the hands of the Russians as soon as possible," Mr. Clinton said in an interview with CNN.

Mr. Clinton said an international effort, like the one mounted to confront Iraq in the Gulf war, is needed to help Russia. Each leader was greeted by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and then held separate talks with their summit host.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin planned to meet for about seven hours over two days. Saturday's summit sessions were focusing on economics; Sunday's meeting was on security and foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton said the two groups, the Fateh Revolutionary Council faction of engineering the assassination attempt in an ongoing war between the two groups.

While too little aid will not

have the desired impact, "too much can be bad because it would be used by the communists to target us... the opposition will say we are going to be encashed by the West," Mr. Yeltsin said.

He said the efforts by the West, including a \$160 million aid package announced by Canada Thursday, were welcome.

"We must understand that Russia is shedding one social order to assume another social order. That's why it is so difficult for us," he said. "The communists want to take revenge, to take us back to the past."

Meanwhile, "We," a newspaper that is a joint effort between Izvestia and Hearst, reported in Saturday's editions that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has offered to have the United Nations monitor Russia's April 25 referendum and any future national elections.

Mr. Yeltsin, who spoke by phone with Mr. Clinton Thursday night, signalled that he was satisfied with the president's offer.

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Egyptian ambassador sees 'threshold of new Camp David'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Parties to the Middle East peace process are "on the threshold of a new Camp David," Egypt's new ambassador to the United States, Maher Al Sayed, said March 29. And with the United States now as a full partner, he added, the parties "have reason to look to future talks with much more optimism."

Speaking to the Washington chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Sayed said the Middle East is ready for "a settlement that ensures the rights of all the parties, the security of all the parties, but that will go beyond that in establishing regional cooperation between all the countries and the peoples of the area."

"Peace, to be durable, has to be fully accepted by both parties and ... all of the parties to the process now are determined to achieve agreement," he said.

The envoy, who has been the Egyptian ambassador to Belgium, Portugal, the USSR and Russia before coming to his Washington post, said parties to the peace talks "have come to recognise that peace is not a one-way street — is not something one party imposes on the other."

"Peace is so important that it needs compromise on both sides," he stressed, pointing out that both Arabs and Israelis have made compromises and abandoned

some of the demands they made a few years ago.

Mr. Sayed said the U.S. role as a full partner "is one that has been evolving since Madrid," and may now involve "friendly persuasion" but no coercion. "No party to the process should be required to sacrifice its own strategic interests," he told a questioner.

But he stressed, "It is important for the parties to examine carefully what their best interests are. Security is something that can be achieved without the acquisition of territory."

In his address, entitled "Egypt's Role in the New World Order," Mr. Sayed said Egypt is accepted as an important player in the process because of its role in the Camp David accords, and President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have already established "a very good working relationship."

The contacts have been continuous. "As soon as elections occurred in Israel, Hosni Mubarak contacted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and arranged to go along (in) making this peace warmer," he said.

"What is happening in the occupied territories is something that we honestly feel very strongly about," he said. "Many Egyptians would not like to go to Israel until this problem is solved. We feel that it is a most unfortunate situation. We feel solidarity with the Palestinian people."

"I think we will see that this peace will become warmer and warmer. ... We are willing to go along (in) making this peace warmer with him," he said. "We have recognised that this is a very welcome change, and we have expressed our desire to cooperate with this new government in introducing a new era of peace."

He added, however, that "this does not mean that we agree on everything that Mr. Rabin does,

or that he agrees on everything we do. It does mean that we ... would like to do all we can to encourage Mr. Rabin to pursue the course that he has set."

Mr. Sayed took exception to a reporter who characterised the peace between Israel and Egypt as a "cold peace."

"The main thing is that peace exists ... that there are contacts and cooperation," he responded.

"I don't think that peace requires that you love the people you are at peace with."

Moreover, "people should be allowed some time" to adjust to the idea of peace and prospects for cooperation, he explained, noting that the relations between Israel and Egypt are increasing in many areas.

In response to a question on the Arab boycott, he pointed out that Egypt is not boycotting Israel and has not since the signing of the Camp David accords.

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SILENT EMERGENCY: A group of children at a hospital in south Sudan. The U.N. says that about 1.5 million Sudanese need urgent food and medical aid (AFP photo)

Palestinians gone, Israeli soldiers work in farms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers moved in Friday to help save Israeli crops, replacing Arab labourers at the height of a crucial harvest after the government sealed the occupied lands.

It is a busy time for flower growers and exports to Europe for Easter, but the 1,500 soldiers sent to the fields also are helping to recruit Israelis for farm work.

"Since this morning we're sorting flowers," Michal, a woman soldier, said on army radio. "It's a break from the daily routine."

But Menachem Peled, a flower grower from the collective farm Hemet in central Israel, told the radio that though the soldiers' help was appreciated, some were doing more harm than good since they lacked training.

The flower growers' troubles illustrate Israel's dilemma in barring about 110,000 Palestinian labourers from entering Israel following a month of violence that has left 13 Israelis and 26 Palestinians dead.

The closure has helped calm Israeli nerves. But both farmers and Israeli contractors, who are heavily dependent on Palestinian workers, are finding it difficult to do without the low-paid labour.

The indefinite closure of the occupied territories began Monday in Gaza and Wednesday in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, officials reported that four Canadian soldiers are under investigation for the death of a Somali man after his March 16 arrest in Belet Huen. The head of the Canadian army, Lt. Gen. Gordon Reay, said from Ottawa that it appears to be "a serious homicide case."

The investigation apparently prompted a suicide attempt by Corporal Clayton Matchie, 29, who was taken into custody after the death was discovered.

Cpl. Matchie remains in a coma in Canada, where he was flown for treatment. Three other members of his unit — trooper Elvin Brown, 24, and Sergeant Mark Boland, 32, are under investigation.

Authorities have not given a cause of death for the unidentified Somali, who was found unconscious in his holding cell and died at Belet Huen hospital.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to a request to let 1,000 Arab labourers pick flowers start-

ing this weekend.

Hanan Rubin, spokesman for the military government of the occupied territories, told the Associated Press the permits would be given on an individual basis and mainly to women.

Israel's jobless rate is 11 per cent, and the government employment office has set up booths to recruit Israelis for farm work.

The labour ministry also has provided subsidies to help Jewish settlement farms in the occupied lands, and Russian and Ethiopian immigrants are being recruited.

But farmers still complain they are not getting help when they need it most because many Israelis don't want to do bard physical labour.

"I'm stuck with 50 dunams of celery," said Pinchas Zamari, from the southern collective farm of Beit Hagaddi. "If it's not picked within a few days it'll all be lost."

Yoav Kalimyan, the head of the agriculture committee in the region bordering the Gaza Strip, told Israel Radio he asked the employment office for 300 workers to replace Palestinian labourers confined to Gaza.

"Only three showed up," he said.

Meanwhile, sending soldiers to settlement farms in Gaza has angered Israeli peace activists who say the public should not have to rescue those who profit from the occupation.

"These settlements were established on the basis of cheap labour, of totally twisted Zionism," said Amiram Goldblum, an activist for Peace Now.

Iraq denies part in New York bombing

BAGHDAD (R) — A newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son said Saturday allegations of possible Iraqi involvement in the New York World Trade Centre bombing were "lies and plots."

"(U.S.) circles are trying to fabricate lies and plots to hint that Iraq is involved in the sky-scraper operation," Babel newspaper, published by President Saddam's son Uday, said.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sources said Wednesday an international search was under way for Iraqi-born Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, 25.

The sources said Mr. Yousef, who previously lived in New Jersey, was believed to have left the United States four days after the bombing.

"He was probably the last real pasha. It's unlikely we'll see such a collection again for some time," said Paris auctioneer Jacques Tahan, a friend of Hussein's.

Some 25,000 collectors, dealers and sightseers converged on this haven of wealth to view the collection before the auction, blocking the narrow tree-lined avenues with sleek limousines.

Ancient chandeliers and wall candelabra lit rare tapestries lining the walls. Eighteenth-century cabinets gleamed with antique gold and silver tableware.

The main sale, at nearby Monte Carlo, attracted more than 1,200 people, many of whom wore evening dress in keeping with the pasha's lifestyle.

They came from all over the world and those who could not attend communicated bids by way of 140 specially installed telephones.

Mr. Tajan had hoped the sale would fetch about 60 million French francs (\$11 million) for the 3,000-piece collection of 18th century French furniture, Chinese porcelain, ornaments and paintings.

It brought in 75 million francs (\$13 million).

"I've never seen anything like it in the 30 years I've been in the business," Mr. Tajan told Reuters. "People realised it was the end of an era."

Centrepiece of the sale was a pair of wooden chests by Charles Crescent, cabinet-maker to the

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 4

UNRWA warns of cut in services if deficit persists

VIENNA (Agencies) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen has urged donor governments to increase their 1993 contributions to UNRWA. Speaking at a special meeting in Vienna Friday, Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA would be forced to begin reducing some services beginning on July unless additional funds are forthcoming. The agency faces a \$28.5 million deficit in its regular and emergency programmes for 1993.

"UNRWA's emergency programmes are now more important than ever, both in the occupied territory and in Lebanon," Mr. Turkmen said. In the four month period between Dec. 1 1992 and March 1993, fifty-seven Palestinian fatalities were recorded in the Gaza Strip. Over 2,100 injury-related injuries in Gaza were treated in UNRWA clinics or local hospitals and 414 children under 16 were injured by gunfire. Palestine refugees in Lebanon have no access to government services and some 30,000 are homeless.

The special meeting was convened by Mr. Marcel Tremblay, chairman of UNRWA's Advisory Commission and the permanent representative of France to the United Nations in Vienna. "The urgent situation caused by UNRWA's financial deficit has prompted this initiative," said Mr. Tremblay. In his closing statement, he asked governments to re-examine their commitments to UNRWA's budget. "Governments should recognise that increased contributions would help both the agency and the Palestine refugees who rely on UNRWA's assistance," Mr. Tremblay said.

During the meeting, the Canadian government announced \$500,000 Canadian dollars for UNRWA's emergency programme.

The commissioner-general reported that he had recently completed trips to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to seek additional funding from Gulf countries.

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The commission-general said that due to the closure of the Gaza Strip on March 28 and the West Bank on March 30 by the Israeli authorities, Palestinian labourers were now unable to earn an income by working in Israel. He pointed out that if the closure continued, the agency would have no alternative but to respond with emergency food assistance to Palestinians living in

Era of refinement ends with sale of pasha's treasures

SAINT JEAN-CAP FERRAT, France (R) — Turkish-born aristocrat Ilhamy Hussein, the last of a Belgian collector bought them for 8.5 million francs (\$1.6 million) to furnish his French castle.

Four Vermeil champagne buckets, made by Paul Storr of London in 1807 and engraved with the British royal coat of arms, went for more than 1.4 million francs (\$250,000).

The urban collector died aged 95 last October and it took five days to sell the lot.

The auction, held earlier this month at Hussein's "Bain di fiore" villa in exclusive Cap Ferrat, marked the end of an era of refinement.

"He was probably the last real pasha. It's unlikely we'll see such a collection again for some time," said Paris auctioneer Jacques Tahan, a friend of Hussein's.

Some 25,000 collectors, dealers and sightseers converged on this haven of wealth to view the collection before the auction, blocking the narrow tree-lined avenues with sleek limousines.

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Centrepiece of the sale was a pair of wooden chests by Charles Crescent, cabinet-maker to the

duke of Orleans, dated 1749, according to the catalogue. A Belgian collector bought them for 8.5 million francs (\$1.6 million) to furnish his French castle.

Born in Istanbul in 1897, Hussein married a descendant of Mehmet Ali, viceroy of Egypt, and went to live in Cairo. His financial skills earned him the esteem of King Farouk, who honoured him with the title of pasha.

Hussein sought refuge in Monte Carlo when his property was seized after King Farouk's overthrow in 1952.

He rubbed shoulders with the personalities of the day, such as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Greek millionaire Aristotle Onassis and German-born actress Marlene Dietrich.

Widowed, he married American heiress Myrtle Harkness and moved to Cap Ferrat. The newly-married Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, as well as the duke and duchess of Windsor, were among those who attended their lavish parties.

The pasha rebuilt his collection, turning his vast Italian Renaissance-style villa into an Aladdin's cave.

Towards the end of his life, again widowed, Hussein gave up the night-life and elegant galas of Monte Carlo, becoming almost a recluse.

He had no children and left most of his fortune to nephews and nieces in Turkey. French authorities will collect 55 per cent of the sale proceeds in death duties.

The villa is on the market for 150 million to 200 million French francs (\$27 million to \$36 million).

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Rêves d'enfants

17:40 Les Clés de Fort Boyard

17:45 News in French

17:50 Le Journal de l'histoire

17:55 News in Arabic

18:00 Who's Who

18:30 L'Espresso

18:45 News in English

22:30 French series "Ce diable d'homme"

22:35 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

22:40 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

22:45 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

22:50 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

22:55 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:00 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:05 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:10 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:15 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:20 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:25 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

23:30 "Le Jeu des 30 questions"

2

Majority says House did well

(Continued from page 1)

Masri (Independent National Bloc), Leith Shbeilat (Independent Islamist), Fakhri Kawar (Leftist, Christian), Anwar Al Hadid (Independent), Ahmad Al Aabadi (Independent), Mohammad Azizadeh (Muslim Brotherhood) and Abdul Hafeez Alawi (Muslim Brotherhood).

Irid: Ahmad Kofahi (Muslim Brotherhood), Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (Independent), Mohammad Alawneh (Independent Islamist), Thouraq Hindawi (Independent Constitutional Bloc) and Husni Shiyah (Leftist).

Jersh: Hussein Mjalli (Pan-Arab Nationalist).

Ajloun: Ahmad Annab (Independent).

Ramtha and Beni Kenanah: Salim Zoubi (Pan-Arab Nationalist), and Mohammad Dardour (Independent).

Balqa: Abdul Latif Arabya (Speaker of the Lower House (Brotherhood), Abdulrahman Ensour (Independent, National Bloc), Ibrahim Kreisat (Brotherhood), and Samir Kawar (Independent, Christian).

Karak: Ahmad Kafawin (Brotherhood), Jamal Sarairah (Independent Islamist) and Mohammad Hwemel (Independent Islamist).

Ma'an: Abdul Karim Kabariti (Independent National Bloc).

Zarqa: Deeh Anis (Brotherhood), Saleh Al Ghweiri (Independent, National Bloc), Abdul Baqi Jammo (Independent, Islamist) and Bassam Haddadin (Leftist, Christian).

Mafraq: Abdul Karim Dughmi (Leftist, Democratic Bloc).

Tafilah: Abdullah Akayleh (Brotherhood).

Bedouin of the north: Sa'ad Hayel Srour (Independent, National Bloc).

Bedouin of the south: Jamal Kreisha (Independent).

(A footnote accompanying these findings warns: These results should be handled carefully since the sample for this survey was selected according to the government's distribution and not according to parliamentary constituencies. At the same time, the number of respondents in certain constituencies was relatively small and respondents established their judgments with regards to the current deputies and in total isolation of any new candidates who consider running for the 1993 elections.)

On the whole, 72.8 per cent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of the House in general, 20.8 per cent said they were dissatisfied, and 6.3 per cent said they did not have any opinion.

But the voters' satisfaction with the House did not extend to their respective deputies. Only 28.7 per cent of the audience said they were happy with the representatives of their constituencies in the House.

It indicated that a majority of the voters appreciated the parliamentary record of deputies, but not necessarily from their respective constituencies, and gave a thumbs-down to some of their own.

In Amman Governorate, 73 per cent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of the House, but only 26.2 per cent were satisfied with their respective deputies' performances; 20.9 per cent said they were dissatisfied and the rest had no opinion.

Similarly, 70.7 per cent of Zarqa respondents gave an overall approval of the House performance (21.5 per cent said they were dissatisfied and 7.7 per cent had no opinion), while only 22.7 per cent said they were satisfied with their respective deputies.

In Irid, it was 71.2 per cent satisfied with the House, 21.8 per cent dissatisfied and 7 per cent had no opinion; only 31.3 per cent said they approved of their deputies' performance.

Deputies from Mafraq and in the south appeared to be the most popular among their constituents. Those surveyed in Mafraq gave a 45 per cent approval for their deputies (83.3 per cent of the House), followed by 42.6 per cent in Karak (80.3 per cent for the House), 39.7 per cent in Ma'an (79.3 per cent for the House) and 35.7 per cent in Tafilah (92.9 per cent for the House).

Balqa deputies got good rating from only 27.3 per cent, while the overall approval of the House performance in the governorate was 62.4 per cent.

Overall, 73.5 per cent of the males and 72.2 per cent of the females interviewed approved the performance of the House; 21.7 per cent of the males and 19.9 per cent of the females were not satisfied.

In the 19-24 age group, 72.6 per cent gave good marks to the House; it was 74.8 per cent in the 25-44 bracket; 74.6 per cent in



Mustafa Hamarnah

the 35-44 bracket and 69.9 per cent of those over 45.

The poll found that 23.8 per cent of voters will give priority to social and other services that would be secured by candidates while voting in the next elections, followed by 18.5 per cent who favour deputies who express "courageous views," 4.6 per cent favour harmony in thinking and electoral programmes, and 3.5 per cent favour kinship (family and tribal affiliation).

This particular finding suggested that there has been little change in the tradition of "patronage" with a direct positive effect on services in constituencies being the key element in voters' consideration.

It also suggests that outspoken candidates seem as dedicated to improving the lot of their constituencies and having a record of honesty stand the best chance to enter Parliament. By extension, it also means that groups espousing political ideologies and religious principles as their platforms could be sidelined come election time.

The bulk of those interviewed was in Amman Governorate with 39.6 per cent, followed by Zarqa (15.1 per cent), Irid (23.7 per cent), Mafrqa (four per cent), Balqa (6.4 per cent), Karak (5.1 per cent), Tafilah (1.2 per cent) and Ma'an (4.8 per cent).

The target audience was asked to answer a 68-point questionnaire which included characteristics of respondents — sex, age, group, education and employment status — assessment of the performance of the Lower house elected in 1989, general evaluation of individual deputies, voting considerations, views on the present elections law and constituency structure, awareness of legislation, democratisation procedures, and participation in active political life.

The survey found that 76 per cent of the respondents consider casting their votes in the next elections; 18 per cent said they would not vote and six per cent were undecided (less than 45 per cent of the eligible electorate went to the polls in the last elections, held in November 1989).

In a general context, the poll found that the belief that the Jordan electorate is highly involved in politics is unfounded. Only 1.4 per cent of the respondents said they were affiliated to political parties and 5.5 per cent indicated they might join parties in the future.

Over one-third — 36 per cent — said they were willing to take part in a demonstration or sit-in if and when necessary, with those in the governorates of Ma'an and Karak as well as Amman registering the highest interest in such activities.

Although preliminary findings of the survey were processed immediately after the field study, the Centre for Strategic Studies held back the full details of the survey until after the 11th Parliament recessed. While no explanation was available on the delay, it was believed that the centre did not want to find itself caught in the centre-stage of a political debate triggered by the findings of the poll.

Dr. Mustafa Hamarnah, the young energetic director of the centre, would only say that "we thought it would be more appropriate if the results were released after Parliament recessed."

"The centre is a strictly non-partisan, non-political academic institution and wanted to devote enough time for analysis," he said.

Dr. Hamarnah, professor of history who took over as director of the centre in April last year, said work got under way on the survey in June and the actual interviews were conducted during the third week of January by a team of university students supervised by faculty members.

Credible observers noted that it was the first time that the centre had undertaken a project of this magnitude and say that a new vision rooted in modernity and change is guiding its work.

Of the target audience, 23.5 per cent were in the 19-24 age range, 29.6 per cent between 25 and 35, 10.1 per cent between 35 and 44 and 25.8 per cent over 45 years. The rest did not indicate their age in the questionnaire.

Asked how "scientific" the poll was, Dr. Hamarnah said:

"The target audience and population sample was randomly selected and was derived from details offered by the Department of Statistics."

He noted that the number of surveyed was higher than those covered in any such previous poll and their geographical locations were widespread.

The questionnaire was prepared by specialists in sociology and political science, and statisticians, and the audience was selected at random," he said.

Furthermore, he said, "Every respondent was asked clear questions with no ambiguity, and their answers were closely studied and analysed by experts in their fields."

Following is a summarised version of the study:

38.6 per cent were aware that amendments were introduced to some of the clauses of the Political Parties' Law, whereas 32.8 per cent were not, and 28.6 per cent did not know.

Between 13.4 and 24.2 per cent of the respondents said that they were aware of some specific changes that were introduced to the parties' law, of whom more than 70 per cent described these changes as "fundamental."

On martial law regulations, 62.7 per cent of the respondents were knowledgeable about the abolition of the regulations, of whom about 31.6 to 40.7 per cent were posted abroad as ambassadors.

57 per cent believe that the number of the present parliamentary seats is adequate.

50 per cent believe that the present criteria for division of constituencies is adequate.

Among those who answered to the contrary, 82 per cent are in favour of more parliamentary constituencies, while 67 per cent prefer an increase in parliamentary seats.

47.4 per cent were knowledgeable about the newly-introduced Press and Publications Law, compared to 31.2 per cent who know nothing about it. In addition, between 14.5 and 35.8 per cent of the respondents said that they were aware of the amendments to the draft of this law, of whom more than 70 per cent described these amendments as "fundamental."

For the old Defence Law, 20 to 52 per cent of the respondents said that they were aware of some of its articles.

70 per cent said the current Lower House is, one way or another, representative to all social strata.

18.2 per cent said the House does not much represent all social strata. The reason behind this, they believe, is the elections law upon which the 1989 parliamentary elections were based.

60 per cent said that members of the House have not done enough to maintain contacts with their electorates.

51 per cent said that members of the House have not undertaken a sufficient role in following the citizens' urgent demands/problems.

47 per cent said that members of the House have not worked hard towards tackling the economic problem.

39 per cent said that members of the House have not undertaken sufficient role with regard to expediting amendments to certain laws.

46 per cent of the respondents said that deputies have not undertaken positive activities as far as their respective constituencies are concerned.

49 per cent of the respondents said that they will re-vote some or all of current deputies of their respective constituency in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

35 per cent of the respondents said that they will not re-vote any of the current deputies in their constituency.

51 per cent of the respondents said that deputies failed to accomplish their expected duties in their districts.

70 per cent of the respondents, who earlier filed demands, said that deputies have dealt negatively with their demands.

50.3 percent are in favour of the present election arrangements.

26.3 per cent voiced their satisfaction with the present constituency and seat numbers as well as with the criteria of division, provided that each voter casts his or her vote for one candidate only.

15.2 per cent of the respondents said that they will not re-vote any of the current deputies in their constituency.

After Masika's car drove past

the second checkpoint, soldiers fired in the air, then at the wheels of the car which came to a halt about 200 metres from the troops, the radio said, quoting a senior army officer.

One of the hitchhikers got out of Masika's car and fired a shot, the radio said. He reportedly told police later the shot was meant as a signal for the patrol to stop shooting.

Soldiers radioed a nearby patrol which set up a second makeshift checkpoint. Again soldiers gestured for Masika's car to stop but Masika sped past without slowing down.

It was not clear from the army statement whether the soldiers had erected obstacles in the road. The Israel Radio report indicated the checkpoints were at the side of the road.

After Masika's car drove past

PLO: Israel responsible for violence

(Continued from page 1)

Ephraim in the West Bank's Jordan Valley when they were picked up by Masika.

Masika's car was headed towards central Israel when he reached an army roadblock on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Nablus and ignored light signals by soldiers to stop, the radio said.

Soldiers radioed a nearby patrol which set up a second makeshift checkpoint. Again soldiers gestured for Masika's car to stop but Masika sped past without slowing down.

The shot killed Masika and seriously wounded the woman and another soldier. The third soldier was not injured. The radio said the trunk and rear door of Masika's car were riddled with bullets

But the soldiers at the checkpoint believed they were dealing with an armed assailant and continued to fire, stopping only when they heard shouts in Hebrew, the radio said.

"Now that you have chosen to leave your post to have some rest, I am glad to express to you my thanks for your great role and for

Udwan replaces Fheid as PSD chief

(Continued from page 1)

Fheid to lieutenant-general.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a Royal Decree endorsed a Cabinet decision to accept Gen. Fheid's request to be relieved of his post and be retired, and another decree appointed Maj.-Gen. Udwan as the new PSD chief.

The decisions take effect as of April 4, 1993.

Informal sources told the Jordan Times that Gen. Fheid will be posted abroad as ambassador.

King Hussein Saturday sent a letter to Gen. Fheid commanding his efforts in leading the PSD and his distinguished efforts while in service.

"When you were chosen to lead the PSD on Sept. 21, 1989, it was because of what we knew about you of high efficiency, distinguished military service, ability to organise and readiness to give... in addition to your courage and loyalty to your homeland since the time you had the honour of joining our courageous Armed Forces until today," the King said in his letter.

"As we still remember these characteristics and stands, we also appreciate your incessant efforts in leading the PSD, in terms of training, developing and modernising, where you supplied it with all efficiencies of the youth of our country — who are able to carry out their sacred duty in protecting the homeland and its citizens and combatting crimes of all kinds and from all sources.

But the soldiers at the checkpoint believed they were dealing with an armed assailant and continued to fire, stopping only when they heard shouts in Hebrew, the radio said.

"Now that you have chosen to leave your post to have some rest, I am glad to express to you my thanks for your great role and for

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

cent talks with Mr. Christopher and American administration officials in Washington, Petra said.

In separate comments, Mr. Hussein said the Palestinian delegation wanted the United States to guarantee that Israel carries out promises it offered to Palestinians to revive Arab-Israeli talks.

"We want to be sure that the U.S. will be there as a third party, or a witness, to guarantee (implementation of) whatever Israel offers us," Mr. Hussein told Reuters in Amman.

Israel and the United States are working to restart the talks, deadlocked since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17 for ties with hardline groups blamed for attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Palestinians, hacked by their Arab partners, want to take back Palestinian expellees and pledge to halt expulsions and human rights abuses before the next round of talks could resume on April 20.

Mr. Hussein said Palestinians had not completed evaluating the "various offers" received from the United States and Israel to restart the talks.

In Tunis, the PLO accused the United States Friday of not doing enough to nudge Israel towards resuming the stalled negotiations.

Gunbattle

(Continued from page 1)

said.

Algiers radio said the gang, armed with automatic pistols, shotguns and probably sub-machineguns" initially refused "any dialogue or compromise" with the security forces.

On Friday the gang, which APS said had refused to accept any food, freed two women hostages.

Sara Ahmad Ba, 20, and her colleague Fatima Zerdani, 24, were the only women among 11 bank staff and two customers being held hostage. One was freed "apparently unwell" and the other, released several hours later, was "in a feverish state."

The bank siege at Al Afroun was Algeria's first mass hostage-taking since a state of emergency was imposed on the country,

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents

THE STRING QUARTET

of the

NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Aram Zarasian, violin I - Mohammad Ali Abbas, violin II

Samir Jawad, viola - Farqad Al-Wattar, cello</p

Sports

Barkley leads Suns past Celtics

BOSTON (R) — Charles Barkley scored 37 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns held on to stop the streaking Boston Celtics, 118-114 on Friday.

Kevin Johnson added 25 points, eight rebounds and dished out nine assists for the Suns, who halted Boston's winning streak at nine games.

The win was the sixth in a row for the league-leading Suns and their club-record 24th road victory of the season.

Reggie Lewis had 32 points and Xavier McDaniel 25 for Boston, which lost for just the fourth time in 20 games.

In Miami, Patrick Ewing had 26 points and 22 rebounds to help the red-hot New York Knicks beat the Heat, 123-107 in a game marred by 10 technical fouls.

Doug Rivers, who recently returned to the Knicks' lineup after a two-game suspension for fighting, received two technical fouls and was ejected from the game.

In Chicago, the Bulls remained one game back of the Knicks for the top playoff spot in the east when Michael Jordan scored 40 points to lead the NBA champions to a 118-105 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Derrick Coleman scored 30 points to pace the Nets, who remained one-half game behind Boston for the fourth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets were playing without injured starters Drazen Petrovic, Kenny Anderson and Chris Dudley.

At San Antonio, David Robinson scored 39 points and had six blocked shots to lead the Spurs to a 108-101 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Sean Elliott scored 21 points and Dale Ellis added 18 for the



Celtics Xavier McDaniel makes room as his opponent falls backward.

Orlando Magic 118-102 for their 11th consecutive home win.

Reggie Miller scored 17 of his 24 points in the decisive third quarter with three pointers, including one that capped a 13-1 spurt that put the Magic ahead to stay, 64-52.

Shaquille O'Neal returned to the Magic lineup after a one-game suspension and had 28 points and 19 rebounds. Nick Anderson scored a game-high 32 off the bench for Orlando.

Terry Porter and Clyde Drexler each sank two free throws in the final 20 seconds to give the visiting Portland Trail Blazers a 96-91 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Roma face another scandal

MILAN (AP) — Two years after Argentine superstar Diego Maradona was banned from the game because of cocaine, the Italian League is bracing for another drug scandal.

News reports are saying AS Roma forward and Maradona's fellow Argentine national team striker Claudio Caniggia has likewise tested positive for cocaine in a random drug test following a league match last month.

Maradona, who then played for Napoli, was suspended from soccer for 15 months and earlier this season returned to Sevilla of Spain.

Italian soccer officials have confirmed a Roma player tested positive but refused to identify him pending a second test Monday on the split urine sample.

But the news shook the league and could be another serious blow to Roma, already battling to concentrate following the arrest of the team president in Italy's wide-ranging corruption scandal.

The report over shadowed this weekend's games, the 26th round of the first-division campaign virtually wrapped up for weeks by a suddenly vulnerable-looking AC Milan.

Napoli visits the "ailing" Milan powerhouse at San Siro stadium. Milan, Parma and Juventus are being allowed to play their league games one day ahead of the regular schedule to give players an extra day of rest prior to next week's European Cup matches.

Parma is at Pescara and Juventus plays Udinese on the road.

In other games Sunday, Inter travels to Genoa to face Sampdoria; Torino hosts Lazio; Atlanta of Bergamo is at Foggia; Genoa is at Cagliari; Ancona is at Brescia; and Roma hosts Fioren-

za.

Milan has lost two games in the last four weeks, suddenly reviving hopes of its pursuers, despite its comfortable eight-point lead over second-place Internazionale.

Inter coach Osvaldo Bagnoli said he doesn't expect to eliminate the gap but would like scare its cross-town rival. The two teams meet Saturday, April 10, the day before Easter when no league games are scheduled.

Milan's record unbeaten streak ended after 58 games, against Parma, two weeks ago. On Tuesday night when his car clipped another vehicle on the straightaway at Speedway Park, north of Adelaide. The car flipped several times and flew over both a concrete barrier and a four-metre safety fence. It narrowly missed dozens of spectators seated nearby. Herren was trapped in the wreckage for about an hour before being freed and flown by helicopter to Royal Adelaide Hospital, where he underwent surgery. No word on his condition was immediately available.

Basketball's 'jump shot' devised during sibling grudge match

home in Hillsdale. Until then, the two-handed set shot was the norm.

"My brother Bud and I grew up on a ranch in Hillsdale. He was four or five years older than me. We had a hoop on the windmill, and we'd go out there and play. And here I was 5 feet (170 centimetres) and him 6-5 (196 centimetres), and I know my thinking was 'how do I get a shot off against this big guy?'

"He'd stuff it down my throat. I started just jumping in the air and throwing the ball, and it just developed into the jump shot."

After winning the national Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) title in 1943, Saito went on to play for seven NBA teams in five seasons before retiring in 1951.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Schwartz roars to pole position

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (R) — Kevin Schwantz stamped his authority on practice for Sunday's Malaysian 500cc Motorcycling Grand Prix with a blistering ride in Saturday's final session. The Texan, who won the season-opening Australian round of the World Championships in the style last weekend, took his Suzuki round the tight Shah Alam Circuit in one minute 25.533 seconds.

Second fastest was Australian Daryl Beattie on his Honda, but he had to rely on the 1:25.643 he set during Friday's first qualifying session. All the other top riders improved their times and Yamaha's world champion Wayne Rainey moved to third place, little more than 0.2 of a second slower than Beattie. Spain's Alex Criville was fourth for Honda and completed the front row. Rated team mate Mick Doohan was fifth and relegated to the second row.

Olympic visitors to swamp Atlanta hotels

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has reserved at least 40,000 of the 55,000 hotel and motel rooms in metro Atlanta for the 16 days of the games. Hotels and motels that have become members of ACOG's host hotel network are giving the committee the right to book 80 per cent of their rooms at a rate slightly above what the hotels are charging at the end of 1994 said. Hotel officials said many of the other rooms will be reserved for preferred customers and their own corporate clients and staff. By 1996, about 60,000 rooms are expected in the metro area, with 33,600 set aside for Olympic sponsors, officials, media, vendors and security personnel. ACOG is estimating 150,000 visitors will need accommodations nightly.

Sprintcar driver undergoes surgery

ADELAIDE (AP) — Former Australian sprintcar champion Phil Herren underwent surgery for spinal injuries Saturday after a high-speed race crash, officials said. Herren, 51, was injured Friday night when his car clipped another vehicle on the straightaway at Speedway Park, north of Adelaide. The car flipped several times and flew over both a concrete barrier and a four-metre safety fence. It narrowly missed dozens of spectators seated nearby. Herren was trapped in the wreckage for about an hour before being freed and flown by helicopter to Royal Adelaide Hospital, where he underwent surgery. No word on his condition was immediately available.

Milan is closing on its second consecutive league title and is in contention for its fifth champions cup crown this season.

Milan coach Fabio Capello confirmed for the Napoli match he will use the foreign trio of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Jean Pierre Papin, the same three who played Tuesday and failed to overcome a 2-0 first-leg deficit against Roma in the Italian Cup.

Milan enters match with a 17-1 record - 9-3-1 home. Napoli, 11th in the 18-team standings, is 9-6-10, 2-4-7 on the road.



Tomba upset in Giant Slalom: Extending a streak of upset losses, Olympic champion Alberto Tomba Friday lost to unheralded Gerhard Koenigswainer the men's giant slalom title at the Italian Alpine Ski Championships. Tomba, who again failed this year for a World Championship title in Japan and in this season's World Cup, missed his seventh national title as he trailed the winner by 0.57 seconds after two runs in this Alpine resort. "The first run was too long and I was sinking on soft snow in the bottom part of the course," said Tomba, the first Alpine skier ever to defend an Olympic title.

GOREN BRIDGE

With OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

MEASURE YOUR SKILL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A ♦ 7 6
♦ Q J 9 5 3
♦ K J 6 2
♦ 4 X 3
EAST
♦ K Q J 10 8 ♦ 9 6 2
♦ Q 10 8 ♦ 4 3
♦ A 5 2 ♦ 10 8 7
♦ 9 4 ♦ 10 8 5 6
SOUTH
♦ A 7 5 3
♦ K J 9 5 2
♦ 9 4
♦ A Q 7

The bidding:

South West North East
1 2 1 4 2 0 Pass
2 2 V Pass 4 4 V Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Here's another opportunity for you to test your skill. Cover the East-West hands and decide how you would play four hands after the lead of the king of spades.

If you won the lead of spades, ruffed a spade and cashed the ace and king of hearts before ruffing on clubs, you have not looked deeply enough into the situation.

If West did exactly six spades

and two trumps to the queen,

club and take two spades and a diamond to defeat you.

Let's try a different tack. If, after ruffing a spade, you came to hand with a club to ruff another spade, then cash the ace of hearts, cross back to hand with another high club to cash the king of hearts, 10 tricks will roll in unless the distributor is most unkind. You will be defeated only in the unlikely event that East started with a six-card spade suit and East can overrun the third spade, or trumps split 4-1.

Even better technique is to win the first spade, cash the ace and king of hearts and, leaving a trump card ruffing, start running the clubs. A declarer can run a club, but there's still a trump in dummy to take care of one of your spade losers, and another goes on the fourth club.

The gold star goes to those who found yet another approach. Allow West to win the first spade. Ruff the spade continuation (no shift makes any difference), cash the ace of hearts and lead a heart to the jack.

East being the most elegant line, if you cash against East having started with four trumps and loses only if West did deal exactly six spades and two trumps to the queen.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Wind up whatever has been left undone early in the day and use the good aspects of the evening to enjoy yourself with that special person that really means the most to you. Getting the right results will be easy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Listen attentively to what one, who is enthusiastic about some skill with which you have possessed, and the way that people feel you can use it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An electric quality is present in doing the various things that face you today which will carry you over any rough spots also presented.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put behind your personal wishes while you join with congenial companions in the entertainments and amusements that they want you to do.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 in January 20) Don't let a task you feel pressured to do keep you from finding out how you can best do those things for your family or household they desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are so filled with the desire to express your personal abilities and special aptitudes that not a moment should be lost this precious day.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You suddenly become inspired, with some very wonderful ideas different from those you usually have so quickly jut them down, arrange to use them.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN



"My first fiance was a turtle named Eleanor. But I was only four years old and things didn't work out."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold

POINT

Q W E R T Y U I O P A S D F G H J K N L C V B M X Z H J K N L C V B M X Z

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Serbs reject peace plan; new fighting rages around Srebrenica

BILECA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Rebel Serb lawmakers voted Saturday against a peace plan for Bosnia, while a U.N. relief convoy headed toward the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

Frustrating months of international mediation, deputies to a self-proclaimed Serb parliament formally rejected a proposal for the division of Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

The Bileca assembly in southern Bosnia dismissed as too moderate leader Radovan Karadzic's resolution that the plan was unacceptable but could be a basis for further talks.

A total of 68 deputies voted against the plan touted by peace envoys Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. One lawmaker abstained.

The relief convoy, blocked by Serbs Friday, crossed the Yugoslavia-Bosnian border Saturday on its way to Srebrenica, said Luarent Jolles, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Belgrade.

Srebrenica is one of the last areas in eastern Bosnia still held by Muslims.

The U.N. aid convoy abandoned the attempt to reach Srebrenica Saturday when its route was blocked in the nearby Serb town of Bratunac. U.N. officials said.

The convoy of 16 trucks which intended to evacuate refugees among the 40,000 population returned to the border between Bosnia and Serbia, they added.

The convoy was the third this week to deliver food, medicine and other supplies and evacuate sick and destitute people. Mr. Jolles said, It was doubled in size

to 16 trucks, half of which were empty.

Evacuations from Srebrenica were suspended Thursday after six people were killed in an evacuation Wednesday. More than 2,300 people escaped in 19 jammed trucks Monday, and at least three babies died during the trip.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, the Security Council planned to meet Saturday to consider issuing a statement expressing concern about Serbs' attempts to delay delivery of relief supplies to Srebrenica.

In a statement, the Serb deputies said they rejected the peace plan because it would unfairly divide territory, mineral resources, and industries, and would not correspond to the ethnic composition of the population.

"The maps...directly jeopardise the existence of the Serbian people in these lands," Mr. Karadzic told reporters Saturday.

"We are for peace, but not at a price of the catastrophic disappearance of the Serb people...the acceptance of the maps would be the suicide of the Serbian people," he said.

The peace plan had been accepted by the Bosnian government and the republic's ethnic Croats.

Mr. Karadzic said he hoped the Clinton administration would agree to self-determination of ethnic groups and the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into three parts.

Mr. Karadzic also said the next session of his parliament will be in three weeks. If there was no progress by then, he said, "we

will go our own way." He was referring to threats expressed by deputies that the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia should declare full independence and unite with the Serb-held Krajina region in southern Croatia.

The Bosnian Muslim government will continue strengthening defences because Bosnian Serbs are unwilling to embrace peace, said Bosnian presidency spokesman Kemal Mustic in Sarajevo Saturday.

"The Vance-Owen plan is not the best solution for us either, but we signed it because we want peace," he said.

U.N. representatives in the Srebrenica area had observed multiple ceasefire violations as of Friday afternoon, including shelling, mortar and small arms fire, U.N. spokesman Cmdr. Barry Fremer said Saturday.

Cmdr. Fremer said the U.N. was making complaints to both Muslims and Bosnian Serb authorities.

UNHCR spokesman John McMillan said the fighting jeopardised the Srebrenica convoy. "If there's warfare, we're not going to go into it," he said.

Another previously blocked convoy bound for Gorazde was also reported on its way, but one for the besieged town of Zepa was still being held at Podromanija, Mr. Laurens said in Belgrade.

In Brussels, Belgium, the NATO alliance Friday approved a plan to use warplanes to enforce the U.N.-imposed ban on aircraft flying over Bosnia.

But enforcement of the flight ban may not be much help to Bosnian government forces — the Serbs have waged mostly

ground offensives against the Muslim-led government and civilian populations.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday 17 detainees at a Bosnian Serb-controlled detention camp may have been killed while being taken to work in a front-line combat area.

An ICRC statement said that during a visit to the Batkovic detention camp in north-eastern Bosnia on March 31, its delegates were told the detainees' vehicle was ambushed on March 26.

Serbia dismissed as groundless allegations it is sponsoring a genocide campaign against Bosnian Muslims and told the World Court Friday that all sides are guilty of atrocities in the ethnic war.

Bosnia's Muslim government has asked the U.N. court for protection from what it claims are Serb attempts to exterminate its Muslim population. It also seeks a ruling in support of outside military intervention.

The leader of the Serb delegation, Ljubinko Zivkovic, denied Belgrade was involved in the year-old Bosnian war and said Bosnian Serbs also have been victims of war crimes in what he called "a clear-cut case of civil war."

"Their basic human rights, even lives, are also being violated," Mr. Zivkovic told the 14-judge panel, which has no enforcement power but can sway world opinion. The case is the first World Court complaint under the 1948 Paris Convention against genocide.

It quoted Karabakh authorities as saying Azeri forces had fled in panic abandoning large quantities of military equipment.

Karabakh region has no road links with the rest of Azerbaijan because of fighting in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, the longest-running conflict in the former Soviet Union.

The Azeri authorities say that 20,000 of the 60,000 people of the region have managed to escape

Karabakh Armenians report military success against Azeris

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh said Saturday they had seized the key town of Kelbadzhik in western Azerbaijan after several days of fighting.

But Azerbaijan, which declared a state of emergency Friday, said that Armenian fighters had not yet taken the town though they controlled big grounds for launching artillery attacks.

"They have installed artillery and are shelling the regional centre," said Mekhman Aliyev, deputy press secretary of the president, reached by telephone from Moscow.

The Armenian News Agency Snark said Armenian fighters from the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh entered the town, which has a population of about 10,000, Friday.

It quoted Karabakh authorities as saying Azeri forces had fled in panic abandoning large quantities of military equipment.

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